



*The GOP won statewide ground, but Democrats gained in congressional districts.*

The 1990 census documented Washington's explosive population growth and gave the state a new congressional district. The permanent Redistricting Commission faced its first test in the following year as the commissioners added the Ninth Congressional District in the Puget Sound region and also readjusted representation in legislative districts statewide. The new system did not eliminate partisan wrangling over boundaries, as this cartoon from the *Seattle Weekly* suggests, but it did force representatives from both parties to come to a compromise agreement that met the commission's constitutional mandate.